



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
FIGHTER SQUADRON COMPOSITE TWELVE
NAVAL AIR STATION OCEANA
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23460-2297

5750
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From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron Composite 12
To: Director, Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy
Yard, 805 Kidder Breese SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: SUBMISSION OF FIGHTER SQUADRON COMPOSITE TWELVE 2004
COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H

Encl: (1) Fighter Squadron Composite TWELVE Command Data
(2) Commanding Officer's Biography
(3) Executive Officer's Biography
(4) 2004 Chronology
(5) 2004 Narrative
(6) Photograph of Squadron Aircraft

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are
submitted.


W. M. CRANE

**FIGHTER SQUADRON COMPOSITE TWELVE
COMMAND DATA**

Commanding Officer

William M. Crane, Commander, U. S. Navy Reserve

Executive Officer

Joe D. Breedlove, Commander, U. S. Navy Reserve

Senior Administrative Command

Commander, Carrier Air Wing Reserve 20

Squadron Title/UIC

VFC-12/52994

Squadron Mission

Provide Dissimilar Air Combat Training (DACT) for Navy, Marine Corps and other aviation units. In addition, provide fleet service missions for air and surface units as tasked.

Aircraft

F/A-18A/B/A+

Duty Station

When Ashore: Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia Beach, Virginia

When deployed: Naval Air Station Key West, Key West, Florida

**FIGHTER SQUADRON COMPOSITE TWELVE
2004 CHRONOLOGY**

January	NAS Key West Detachment - VFA-101 Local Fleet/FRS support
February	Local Fleet/FRS support
March	NAS Fallon Detachment - Air-to-Ground Local Fleet/FRS support
April	Local Fleet/FRS support
May	NAS Key West Detachment - VFA-125 Local Fleet/FRS support
June	NAS Key West Detachment - VFA-125 Local Fleet/FRS support
July	Local Fleet/FRS support
August	NAS Key West Detachment - VFA-106 Elmendorf Alaska Detachment - BLUE AIR Local Fleet/FRS support
September	Local Fleet/FRS support
October	NAS Key West Detachment - VFA-101 Local Fleet/FRS support
November	NAS Key West Detachment - CVW-8 NAS Fallon Detachment - TOPGUN Adversary Course
December	Local Fleet/FRS support

**FIGHTER SQUADRON COMPOSITE TWELVE
2004 NARRATIVE**

The "Fighting Omars" of Fighter Squadron Composite Twelve began the year with a January detachment to their second home, NAS Key West, Florida. The purpose of the detachment was to provide professional adversary support for the "Grim Reapers" of VF-101, the F-14 Tomcat Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS). During two weeks of high-tempo operations, the Omars provided 18 sorties a day of threat aircraft simulation in order to facilitate the air-to-air combat training of the VF-101 fleet replacement pilots. Training included basic 1v1 dissimilar air combat maneuvering all the way up to 4vX large force exercises. A resounding success, the detachment was capped off in true Omar style with a command beach party.

February saw the Omars return home to NAS Oceana, Virginia and prepare for a completely new mission. As Navy leadership contemplated a reshaping of Naval Aviation, draft plans showed the Omars changing missions from Adversary support to "Blue Air". Taking the initiative, VFC-12 Commanding Officer, Commander Kevin Knight ordered the aircrew and maintainers to prepare for Blue missions, including air-to-ground ordnance delivery. February was spent "in the books", classroom and simulator as the Omars readied themselves for a major test.

The test came in March as the squadron headed to the premier Blue air training facilities of NAS Fallon, Nevada. Flying on tactical ranges with simulated battlefield targets and against the F-5 Saint adversaries of VFC-13, the Omars dropped their first ordnance ever as a squadron. In less than two weeks the Omars successfully delivered 55,000 pounds of bombs including 10,000 pounds of live ordnance. The great success of the detachment was recognized far and wide as the Omars were lauded by Vice Admiral Cotton, Chief of the Naval Reserve and written about in Proceedings magazine. The Omars toasted themselves with a command party and some superb liberty in Lake Tahoe.

April saw the Omars return to Oceana and take a much deserved breather. The break would not last long however, as there was much maintenance and paperwork to catch up on, as well as local fleet adversary support to provide. A long summer lay ahead that would include even greater challenges.

The Omars met the "Raiders" of VFA-125 in Key West for consecutive detachments in May and June. The Raiders came all the way from NAS Lemoore in order to train their replacement FA-18 pilots against the Navy's premier fourth generation adversary squadron. Over 30 new FA-18 pilots for the fleet completed their air-to-air training during the two detachments.

Despite the incredible pace of the first half of the year, the Omars were able to meet every commitment over the summer including their first-ever live missile firing. In July the squadron conducted a change of command ceremony during which Commander William "Sky" Crane relieved Commander Kevin "Kado" Knight. Due to the superb leadership of both officers, the transition was flawless and the squadron continued to provide local adversary support at NAS Oceana as well as conduct in-house training for adversary instructor pilots and the fourteen former F-14 Tomcat pilots learning how to fly Blue Air in the FA-18. The hard work would soon pay off, as the biggest challenge of the year was about to come.

For most of August and into September, the Omars conducted simultaneous detachments separated by 4000 miles. While half of the squadron went to Alaska to participate as Blue Air in the international Cope Thunder exercise, the other half of the squadron flew adversary support for an F/A-18 FRS training detachment in Key West. The ability of the Omars to participate in a large-force mock war exercise as Blue Air only months after delivering ordinance for the first time showcased the incredible talent and versatility of the "Navy's Reserve". With both detachments successfully completed, the squadron regrouped at NAS Oceana to share lessons learned from the past month take some well deserved time off.

October saw the squadron return to Key West to support their old friends, the "Grim Reapers" of VF-101. In what would be the second to last Key West detachment for VF-101 as the venerable F-14 Tomcat drew closer to retirement, the two squadrons renewed their close ties and vowed to meet again for the last Tomcat fighter detachment in 2005. All aircrew in both squadrons agreed that the many VFC-12/VF-101 detachments over the years had produced the absolute most fun air-to-air training, especially the 1v1 Air Combat Maneuvering flights.

In November, the squadron returned to Key West to support Carrier Airwing Eight (CAG-8) in their air-to-air Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Program, a crucial part of their work-ups prior to deployment. This exercise required the full expertise of the Omar adversary instructor pilots as the missions were extremely complex and required the highest level of threat simulation. Pre-dawn briefs and 12 hours days were the norm, but a worthwhile investment as CAG-8 would soon be at the tip of the spear in the Global War on Terror. The entire Omar team gave it everything that they had each day because they knew how critical the training provided by VFC-12 was to the CAG-8 squadrons who would shortly be flying in harm's way.

A record setting year that included 3000 flight hours and many first-time achievements now behind them, the Omars celebrated in December with their biggest Christmas party ever. With morale at an all-time high the Omars took time to reflect on their successes in

2004 and the challenges that await in 2005. In toasting the squadron, Commander Crane noted that it was only through a total team effort and a lot of selfless sacrifice from each and every Omar that the squadron achieved such a spectacular and safe 2004.